



Legal Avenues

Your Road to Solutions

Reliable, Fast, Free Legal Research Guides

Looking for an outline of a legal subject along with a list of in-depth resources, but don't want to spend a lot of time searching for this information? Creating these kinds of overviews can be time consuming, but university law libraries have already done this work as a service to their students and most of the guides are available to everyone online.

Many of these guides are created with LibGuides, a knowledge sharing system that allows information to be organized by tabs inside a single web browser window.

An example from the Howard W. Hunter Law Library at Brigham Young University is a [tax law LibGuide](#)¹ that recommends electronic resources, print materials and journals with separate tabs for income tax, estate and gift tax, trusts, state tax, tax exempt organizations and international tax.

The University of California at Los Angeles has created a [guide for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) that contains links to legislation, regulations, web sites and analysis of the act.²

The University of Akron hosts a number of LibGuides including one for [Ohio Law](#).³ It provides links to Ohio legislation, regulations and information on legislative history.

There are literally hundreds of these guides on the web. An easy way to see if there is one available on

the topic you are researching is to do an online search using the subject and the term "LibGuide." For example, to find the LibGuide on the health reform law, the search "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and LibGuide" brings back the UCLA LibGuide as the first item in the results list in both Google and Yahoo. Law library staff will gladly check to see if there is a LibGuide on a specific topic.

A list of [law libraries using LibGuides](#)⁴ is available from the American Association of Law Libraries if you would like to browse through them to see what is available. It is not all inclusive.

There are also research guides created by universities using other tools that are not quite as easy to locate as LibGuides. For example, Cleveland Marshall School of Law Library has an excellent resource on [Ohio primary law](#).⁵ It includes a tab on administrative decisions, listing where the decisions can be located, if they are published. They also have created guides on a number of [other topics](#).⁶

The [University of Cincinnati](#) also has a variety of useful guides.⁷ They can be browsed alphabetically, by the most popular or by when they were created. The [local government research guide](#) provides information about where to locate municipal ordinances online, lists secondary treatises and online sources for statistics.⁸

Both [Case Western Reserve](#) and [Cleveland State University](#) Law Libraries have research guides on their sites that list by topic the major treatises they own.⁹

Many of the treatises are available at the Stark County

Footnotes

¹<http://lawlibguides.byu.edu/content.php?pid=99172&sid=847367>

² <http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=233304&sid=1930374>

³<http://law.uakron.libguides.com/ohiolaw>

⁴<http://aallcsls.pbworks.com/w/page/1189464/Law%20Libraries%20Using%20LibGuides>

⁵http://guides.law.csuohio.edu/ohio_primary_law

⁶<http://guides.law.csuohio.edu/index.php>

⁷<http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/index.php?gid=2806>

⁸<http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/locallaw>

⁹<http://lawlibrary.case.edu/treatises-by-subject/>, http://guides.law.csuohio.edu/major_legal_treatises

Law Library, and if they are not owned, the library can usually obtain them within a few days from other libraries.

If you are looking for a research guide on a broader national or international level, Georgetown University Law School has guides on subjects such as Canadian law, poverty law, treaty law, music law and the United Nations.¹⁰

Other sites that provide legal research guides on a range of topics are the University of Washington,¹¹ Hieros Gamos,¹² a well-respected site sponsored by a large number of independent law firms; Legal Information Institute from the Cornell University Law

School;¹³ WashLaw from Washburn University School of Law;¹⁴ and Zimmerman's Research Guide,¹⁵ provided through Lexis. There is no charge to access any of these resources.

Law Scout¹⁶ from the University of Akron provides updates on legal research guides as well as a search mechanism to help in locating them.

Specific cases, statutes and regulations are often cited in these guides. You can contact the law library where the staff is always willing to locate copies of these if they are not easily accessible online.

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Footnotes

¹⁰<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/library/research/guides/index.cfm>

¹¹<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/guides.html>

¹²<http://www.hg.org/practiceareas.html>

¹³http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/wex_articles

¹⁴<http://www.washlaw.edu/subject/index.html>

¹⁵<http://law.lexisnexis.com/infopro/zimmermans/>

¹⁶<http://lawscout.uakron.edu/index.php?P=About>